

intend to pursue this course, however; and in the interim, *Motacilla cinerea* Tunstall must remain the valid name for the Grey Wagtail.

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## The correct name of the population of *Xiphorhynchus ocellatus* (von Spix, 1824) recently named *weddellii* (Des Murs, 1855)

by John Penhallurick & Alexandre Aleixo

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Aleixo (2002) established that the population of Ocellated Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus ocellatus* (von Spix, 1824) in southern Colombia (east Guainía, east Vaupés, south Amazonas), extreme southern Venezuela (south-west Amazonas), north-east Peru (north of the Amazon in Loreto), and north-west Brazil (east to the rio Negro), is genetically distinct from others of the species. These findings were based on cytochrome-*b* sequences of a specimen from dpto. Loreto, Peru (at Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, Baton Rouge, USA; LSUMZ 119520), and were subsequently confirmed by additional cytochrome-*b* sequences of 11 specimens from near Iquitos, Peru (also at LSUMZ) and Jaú National Park and the lower rio Japurá region in Brazil (at Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Belém, Brazil (MPEG); Aleixo *et al.* 2006). Zimmer (1934) had previously also found this population to differ morphologically from other taxa in the species: 'A good series from this range is, in general, distinguishable from true *ocellatus* by darker margins of the buff pectoral spots which are, in turn, perhaps slightly larger than in Rio Madeira skins. The mantle averages more heavily streaked, sometimes with the streaks slightly expanded to form rounded, subterminal dots. Nevertheless, numerous specimens are not more pronouncedly streaked on the back than *ocellatus*. The best marked examples, on the other hand, are not far removed from certain skins of *napensis*, showing clearly the full intergradation of *napensis* and *ocellatus*. The shoulder is even more strongly and deeply rufescent than in *ocellatus*, being far different from the condition in *chunchotambo*.'

Both Aleixo (2002) and Marantz *et al.* (2003) chose the name *weddellii* for this population, based on: *Dendroornis weddellii* [as *Weddellii*] Des Murs (ex Lafresnaye MS), 1856 [‘1855’], in Castelnau, *Expédition dans les parties centrales de l’Amérique du Sud, de Rio de Janeiro à Lima, et de Lima au Para : exécutée... pendant... 1843 à 1847*, vol. 1(3), Oiseaux, p.46, pl. 14, fig. 2. (No locality; types from ‘Peruvian Amazon’ in the Paris Museum examined by Hellmayr 1925: 311). In this, they followed Zimmer (1934), who discussed two possible names. One was *Dendroornis weddellii* Des Murs, 1856. The other was (as cited by Zimmer):

*N[asica] Beauperthuysii* Lafresnaye, 1850, *Rev. et Mag. Zool. pure et appliquée*, 2nd ser., 2, p. 419. (‘Amazonum ripas’; Pebas, Peru proposed by Hellmayr, 1925: 311.)

However, Zimmer gave the type locality of *beauperthuysii* as: ‘Perú’ (=Cumaná, Venezuela) and banks of the Amazon, Pebas and Santa Maria, Perú; Paris Mus. or Mus. Comp. Zool., Cambridge’. Thus, Zimmer (1934) recommended against selecting the name *beauperthuysii* for this taxon: ‘There is so much confusion surrounding the former name that it may have to be dropped as unidentifiable. Elliot and, later, Bangs contended that a skin from an unknown locality, in the Lafresnaye collection, now in Cambridge, Mass., labeled ‘*Beauperthuysii*’ in Lafresnaye’s handwriting, is the type of that species, but Menegaux and Hellmayr concluded that two birds in the Paris Museum, from Pebas and Santa Maria, collected by Castelnau and Deville, are the cotypes.’ Instead, he recommended the name *weddellii*: ‘The name *weddellii* is definitely based on the Pebas and Santa Maria specimens of Castelnau and Deville, and if these are found to be like Cassiquiare skins, the name will be available for the form which I have briefly characterized.’

Unfortunately, Zimmer’s confidence in the type locality of *weddellii* Des Murs, 1856, appears misplaced. According to both Hellmayr (1925) and Peters (1951), Des Murs (1856) did not specify any locality, and Hellmayr (1925) added merely the rather vague ‘Peruvian Amazon’. Moreover, Marantz *et al.* (2003) stated: ‘nomenclature complicated, however, by the fact that type specimens of the two [i.e. *weddellii* and *ocellatus*] were found to be identical when compared directly and, in addition, precise locality data are lacking for both.’ Thus we conclude that the name *weddellii* is not available for the population in question. Des Murs’ name is either a junior synonym of *Dendrocolaptes ocellatus* von Spix, 1824, or a *nomen dubium*, as a result of its vague type locality data.

The possible name *beauperthuysii* Lafresnaye, 1850, which antedates Des Murs’ name, must be re-examined. First, the authors of the citation should be specified as Pucheran and Lafresnaye, rather than Lafresnaye alone, as was done by Hellmayr (1925), Zimmer (1934) and Peters (1951). The paper in which the name appears is by Lafresnaye, but the name is cited within the paper as *N[asica] Beauperthuysii* Pucheran et Lafresnaye. Lafresnaye says of the type locality: ‘Il a été rapportée du Pérou par le voyageur Beauperthuys, et de Pebas, Sancta Maria (Haut Amazone), par les voyageurs Castelnaud et Deville’, which we translate thus: ‘It was brought from Peru by the traveller Beauperthuys and from Pebas [=Pebas], Sancta Maria, (upper Amazon), by the travellers Castelnaud and Deville.’ Note that it was Lafresnaye who specified Pebas as the type locality, not Hellmayr. Further, Lafresnaye states that the bird resides in the Paris Museum.

There seems little basis (*contra* Elliot & Bangs, as mentioned by Zimmer above) to assume that the specimen now in Cambridge, MA, is the type specimen. As Zimmer stated: ‘This specimen is undoubtedly from the Lafresnaye collection but may have reached his hands after 1850.’ The label on the specimen now in Cambridge is only partly legible, and reads: ‘*Nasica*, *Dendroornis* Weddellii [=weddellii] (Laf. [illegible]/ Mus. Parisiense, N. *Beauperthuysii* / Pucher. et Lafr. Mon. f. 51 s torso [???) [illegible] haut amazone / Voyage

Castelnau le *Beauperthuysii* / a été rapporté du Pérou par le/ Voyageur Beauperthuys.' Then follows in purple ink '2267', and someone (presumably Bangs) has written in black ink 'type'. Note that the label refers explicitly to specimens already in Paris Museum, and that the Cambridge specimen lacks precise locality data.

Hellmayr (1925) listed *Nasica beauperthuysii* Lafresnaye, 1850, in two places: once (p. 302) as a synonym of Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus sussurans jardinei* (Dalmás, 1900), stating 'spec. collected by Beauperthuys "in Perú" [=near Cumaná, Venezuela], but not the description (spec. in Paris Museum examined).' Footnote a to this citation reads: 'According to his own notes on the labels, Lafresnaye regarded Beauperthuys's specimens as representing the juvenal plumage [of *N. beauperthuysii*].' The other citation (p. 311) occurs in the synonymy of *Xiphorhynchus ocellatus ocellatus* (von Spix, 1824), this time with the note: 'descr. and hab. banks of the Amazon ["Amazonum ripas"], coll. Castelnau and Deville (types from Pebas, Peru in Paris Museum examined).'

Thus, the source of the confusion with the name is clear: the cotypes in the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris are from Pebas, on the north bank of the Amazon in dpto. Loreto, Peru. Lafresnaye's description, given in French on pp. 420–421, relates unambiguously to the types from Pebas, Peru, as Hellmayr observed, and as the first author has confirmed. Louis Daniel Beauperthuys (1803–71) was a doctor of West Indian descent, who trained in Paris, and who investigated virulent outbreaks of yellow fever in the West Indies and Venezuela, and pointed out the causal relationship of mosquitoes in the marshes to such epidemics. The application of the name to the specimens collected by Beauperthuys in Venezuela was based on the erroneous assumption by Lafresnaye, clearly stated in his paper ('Habitat in Peruvia unde a Dom. Beauperthuys olim in Musaeo Parisiense allatus' (p. 419) i.e. 'Lives in Peru from where formerly brought to the Paris Museum by Dom. Beauperthuys'), that these came from the same Peruvian locality and were examples of the juvenile plumage of those birds from Pebas to which the description applies.

Since it appears that the name *weddellii* is unavailable for the population of *X. ocellatus* in question, it is appropriate to allocate the earlier name *Nasica beauperthuysii* Pucheran & Lafresnaye, 1850, to this taxon. The correct citation is: *Nasica beauperthuysii* [as *N[ASICA] BEAUPERTHUYSII*] Pucheran & Lafresnaye, 1850, *Revue et Magasin de Zoologie pure et appliquée*, 2<sup>ème</sup> sér. 2, p. 419. ('Habitat in Peruvia . . . ad fluminis Amazonum ripas, nuper ex Dominorum Castelnau et Deville perigrinatione (p. 419) . . . de Pepas, Sancta Maria (Haut Amazone p. 420). All that needs to be done is to specify a type that unambiguously ties this name to the Pebas location. According to E. Pasquet (*in litt.* September 2006) at MNHN: 'There is a specimen of *Nasica beauperthuysii* Lafresnaye. It was compared with the type of *X. ocellatus ocellatus* by Hellmayr and the number in the general catalogue is (CG) 1991–1195. It is a clearly a Castelnau and Deville specimen, a male, from the upper Amazon' (translated from the French). There are four labels attached to the specimen, which read:

Dendronis ocellata (Spix)/Mâle/Haut-Amazone Castelnau & Deville |

Type de *Nasica beauperthuysii* Lafr. |

D. *Beauperthuysii* Laf./Male/ ocellata (Spix)/comparé au type par Hellmayr |

*Nasica beauperthuysii* Lafresnaye/CG 1991 1195/ (=Xiphorhynchus o. ocellatus(Spix))/comparé au type par Hellmayr/Mâle |

Accordingly, we propose the name *Xiphorhynchus ocellatus beauperthuysii* for the race in southern Colombia, extreme southern Venezuela, north-east Peru and north-west Brazil. We further specify, in accordance with Art. 74 of the *Code* (1999), the male specimen, collect-

ed by Castelnau et Deville, in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, no. 1991–1195, as the lectotype of *Nasica beauperthuisii* Pucheran & Lafresnaye, 1850.

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## A second museum specimen of Large-billed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orinus*

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While checking specimens of Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* from India at the Natural History Museum, Tring, in September 2006, PRK noticed a bird with a bill rather longer and broader than in other specimens. The bird, collected in October 1869 in Uttar Pradesh, was examined in detail by PRK and B. J. Small. Measurement confirmed the large bill. As it was in moult, with the outer primaries partly grown, few wing formula criteria could be checked, but emargination was noted on p5 (primaries numbered ascendently). Moreover, the freshly growing body plumage was slightly warmer than in newly moulted Blyth's Reed Warbler. It was compared with the holotype of Large-billed Reed Warbler *A. orinus*, also held at Tring, and, though a shade paler above, the specimen